

## REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated March 15, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 15, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-13, 18-35 and 39 are pending in the application. Claim 39 has been cancelled. New claims 40 and 41 have been added to recite further aspects of the invention. Claim 40 describes a method for tracking at least one process using a socket object wherein a process list of the processes to which a object descriptor has been passed is maintained, and the socket object is deleted upon a determination that the process list for the socket object is empty. Claim 41 describes that the determination of whether the process list is empty and the deletion of the socket object is performed by the socket object. Claims 1, 18, and 23 have been amended to recite further aspects of the invention. Specifically, claims 1, 18, and 23 have been amended to recite that when the socket object determines that the process list is empty, the socket object is deleted. Applicants submit that the new claim and claim amendments do not introduce new matter and are thus entitled to the priority date of the original filing.

Claims 1-13 and 18-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fowler et al.* (US 5,551,037). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

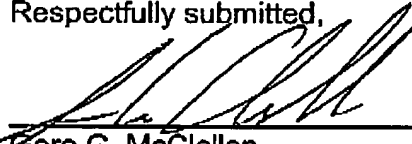
The present claims are directed to a method of tracking at least one process using a socket object. *Fowler* is directed to an apparatus and method for visualizing operation of a system of processes. *Fowler* does this by displaying an image of the interrelations between each process (See Fig. 2). This image also shows which processes are using a socket. *Fowler* discloses an image of the interrelation of processes and sockets. However, *Fowler* does not disclose creating a process list for a socket object, wherein the process list for the socket object contains a process identifier for a process. Further, the claim amendments and new claim clarify that the process list is used to delete the socket object if the process list is empty. Thus, the process list is not merely for displaying information about processes as in *Fowler*, but is further used

to determine when the socket object is to be deleted. Therefore, the claims are believed to be allowable and Applicants respectfully request allowance of the same.

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicants believe that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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